

THURSDAY, MAY 20TH, 1875.]

[CONFIDENTIAL.]

SELECTIONS
FROM THE
VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS
PUBLISHED IN THE PANJAB,
NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES,
OUDH, AND CENTRAL PROVINCES,

Received up to 8th May, 1875.

POLITICAL (DOMESTIC).

The *Benares Gazette* of the 26th April draws attention to the practice of throwing half-burnt corpses into the river, which is common in the Benares city, and calls upon the Magistrate to pass a strict order making it punishable for any one to burn a dead body imperfectly, and consign it to the river in that state.

The *Akhbar-i-Am* of the 28th April, in its local news columns, says that the Christian Missionaries at Lahore intend to build a splendid house for the sale of books of the Christian religion, near the office of the Curator of Government Central Book Depôt, and have received land for that purpose from the Government gratis. The editor cannot understand under what rules the grant of this land has been made, and asks whether, if anybody wished to build a mosque or temple on a public ground, Government would make the same concession to him as it has made in case of the Missionaries.

The *Nasir-ul-Akhbar* of the 29th April urges on the authorities of Dera Ismail Khan the need of building a sarai

in Dera Fath Khan, a place in that district, and appointing a contractor in connection therewith for providing fuel, grass, and other necessities to the large number of travellers by whom the place is daily frequented, and who have now to suffer serious inconvenience.

The *Oudh Akhbar* of the 30th April, in a lengthy article communicated by a correspondent, protests against the exclusion of the province of Behar from the operation of the new Act for the registration of marriages and divorces among Musalmans. The objections to the Act are the Musalman noblemen who indulge in polygamy and other licentious practices, and can by no means be said to represent the whole Muhammadan community of Behar, who are well aware of the usefulness and importance of the Act.

A Dera Ismail Khan correspondent of the *Lauh-i-Mahfuz* of the same date complains of the bad sanitation of that city, and invites the attention of the municipal committee to the matter.

The *Almora Akhbar* of the 1st May estimates the loss caused by the recent disastrous conflagration in the bazar of Naini Tal at $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of rupees.

The *Samay Vinod* of the same date mentions the frequency of thefts in Dera Ismail Khan. Two or three cases recently took place in open day, in which neither the thieves nor the stolen property have been found.

The *Meerut Gazette* of the same date notices the decision of the High Court, North-Western Provinces, in the civil suit brought by the widow of Ganpat Ram, late goods clerk at the Allahabad railway station, against Lyell and Pollard, to recover Rs. 9,360 as damages on account of the defendant's want of due caution in despatching a box containing explosive goods, whereby the plaintiff's husband lost his life. The Court awarded damages to the amount of Rs. 3,000 only. The editor thinks that the High Court should have awarded damages to the full amount sued for by the poor

widow. He asks whether a Hindustani gentleman's life is not even worth Rs. 9,000 ?

POLITICAL (FOREIGN).

The *Oudh Akhbar* of the 28th April remarks on the well known case of Raja Raghubir Singh, of Landhaura (Saharanpur). The editor begins by commending certain native newspapers for having published from time to time full particulars connected with the Raja and his case, and upheld the cause of the unfortunate man, and by censuring those English newspapers which have assumed him to be an impostor, and taken upon themselves to publish telegrams to his prejudice. From the particulars published in newspapers, and the statements made by many trustworthy persons, as well as from the fact of a large number of zemindars, chaudharis, and lawyers having voluntarily come forward to espouse the Raja's cause at any risk and sacrifice, notwithstanding the strong opposition they have met with from the authorities, and the shifts and expedients of the present Raja and his party, who are said to have spent several lakhs of rupees, and are trying by all means in their power to get the case proved against the claimant,—the writer feels sure that the man is the identical Raja Raghubir Singh of Landhaura.

[*Opinion of the Native Press on the Resolution of the Governor-General in Council on the report of the Baroda Commission.*]

The *Benares Gazette* of the 26th April says, that when it is borne in mind that the previous misgovernment and misconduct of Malhar Rao had been condoned by Government by the grant of twenty months' grace, and His Highness lost no time in carrying out a thorough reform in both, there can be no question that to make his past misdeeds a pretext for his deposition, in the face of the solemn pledge of Government to give him a fair trial, is both unfair and unjust. Of course, had the charge of poisoning been proved against him, the punishment would have been as well deserved as now in the

absence of such proof it is unjustifiable. It is incumbent on Government to remove the belief which its decision has produced on the minds of the people, that any person who likes can bring another into trouble by trumping up false charges against him, similar to those preferred against Malhar Rao.

The *Shola-i-Tur* of the 27th April remarks that the Baroda commission furnishes an important illustration of the relations of native princes with the residents or political agents accredited by Government to their courts. These politicals are invested with such absolute power over the princes that the latter think it their best policy to secure their favour by all possible means. Knowing what influence women possess over their husbands among Europeans; they even stoop to the humiliation of courting their favour by the agency of the residency servants. On the other hand, the residents in the pride of their power treat the sovereign chiefs with great indifference and coolness, instead of keeping up friendly intercourse with them, and being ready at all times to give them the benefit of their advice in matters connected with their states.

The *Akhbar-i-Am* of the 28th April is at a loss to understand why, when Government finds the Gaekwar guilty of the imputation preferred against him of having instigated an attempt to poison Colonel Phayre, it does not base the Maharaja's deposition on that plea, but on the plea of his notorious misconduct and misgovernment. It is obvious that this latter plea cannot hold good, seeing that the term allowed to the Gaekwar for reforming his administration has not yet elapsed. The editor gives great credit to the Maharajas of Gwalior and Jaipur and Sir Dinkar Rao for having expressed honest and independent opinions in their minutes on the Baroda Inquiry.

The *Oudh Akhbar* of the same date says :—" Our readers will have been sorry to learn from the telegrams published in our foregoing issue that Maharaja Malhar Rao has been deposed by Government. The Maharaja's case is certainly

much to be deplored; and the more so because public opinion has wholly exculpated him from the accusation brought against him. It is unfortunate for India that its sovereign chiefs and princes of such lofty rank and dignity should be thus disgraced. Our prophecy, that there was no possibility of the Gaekwar being reinstated in his sovereignty, has proved but too true, and we cannot help expressing our deep regret that Malhar Rao's past misconduct and misgovernment should have brought about his downfall. The Maharaja, and not the Government, is to blame for it."

The *Benares Akhbar* of the 29th April says that the Gaekwar's fate has been decided. His sovereignty and all honours and titles thereto appertaining have been forfeited, and he has been sent away a prisoner to Madras. From the enquiry held such result was never expected. Had his guilt been proved by the Commissioner, he would have deserved the punishment which has been inflicted on him. As it is, the Government finding that the charge brought against the Maharaja was not proved, deposed him on the plea of his former faults, notwithstanding that it had allowed him twenty months' grace to rectify them.

The *Akhbar-i-Alam* of the same date remarks as follows:—

"The resolution of the Governor-General in Council on the Baroda case, which is carried to the length of fifteen pages, records the same reasons in support of the conviction of Maharaja Malhar Rao, which have been laid down by the European members of the commission. The minutes of these members do not contain the evidence of the witnesses who were called before the commission: nor is this evidence, nor are the speeches of Sergeant Ballantyne, the Maharaja's Counsel, and Mr. Scoble, the Government Advocate, published with the resolution in the *India Gazette*, as they ought to have been. Sergeant Ballantyne's speech contains a complete refutation of the pleas adduced by the

members who have found the Maharaja guilty. In fact, with the exception of the annexation of Oudh in Lord Dalhousie's time, there has up to this time been no single case in which the conduct of the Governor-General and his colleagues in the Council has been so much censured by the public at large as in the case under discussion. All the three native members of the commission, as well as the leading journalists and the public in England, unanimously pronounce the Maharaja not guilty. The injustice that has been done to the Gaekwar in this case has made much noise throughout Europe. In a communication received by a European officer from England, it is stated that the scandal to which the Government of India has exposed itself by deposing the Gaekwar and bringing him into disgrace, and the Maharaja's freedom from the imputations laid against him, are a common topic in every town and county of England; while the *Juwail*, a famous journal published at Constantinople, says that the Baroda case is a subject of common talk throughout that city, and that Maharaja Malhar Rao's innocence is universally believed in.

Then, again, there seems to be no reason why the verdict of the European members of the commission, which determines the Maharaja guilty, has been allowed to preponderate over the opinions of the Maharajas of Gwalior and Jaipur and Sir Dinkar Rao.

It will be seen, too, that the proclamation of 19th April expressly says, that Her Majesty's Government, abiding by the opinion of the Government of India, that "it would be detrimental to the interests of the people of Baroda that His Highness should be restored to power," have decided that the Maharaja shall be deposed from the sovereignty of Baroda. If, then, the deposition of the Gaekwar was a forgone conclusion with the Government, what was the use of appointing a commission of inquiry. If it had been presumed that the commission would certainly find the Maharaja guilty, such

presumption without previous inquiry or positive proof was improper and absurd.

In conclusion, if the Maharaja's conviction has been determined upon as a politic measure to save Government from the scandal it would incur by reinstating him in his sovereignty, surely by deposing him it has exposed itself to far greater infamy and reproach, not only in the eyes of the natives of India, but much more among the people of England, who are just, unprejudiced, independent, and right thinking."

The *Agra Akhbar* of the 30th April thinks it a pity that a Native prince of high position and dignity like Maharaja Malhar Rao should be doomed to such severe punishment on the mere suspicion of a crime, and remarks that the belief is daily gathering strength that the policy of Government in dealing with native states is unduly severe and high-handed. The deposition of the Nawab of Tonk in the time of Lord Lawrence, and the infliction of a similar punishment on Maharaja Malhar Rao in the time of Lord Northbrook, are fit illustrations of this.

The *Algarh Institute Gazette* of the same date observes that as the crime, of which the Maharaja was accused, has not been brought home to him, and, despite the solemn pledge of Government, his deposition has been based on the old pleas of his misconduct and misgovernment, for reforming which he was allotted a period of probation, which is not yet over, his case may fitly be compared to that of a person who may be accused say of theft, and be punished because he did not manage his household affairs well.

It likewise strikes the writer as strange that Malhar Rao's issue should be deprived of the sovereignty of Baroda, and be precluded from all rights, honours, and privileges thereto appertaining simply because he has shown himself unfit to rule. The fault of misgovernment has to do with the Maharaja only, and his innocent posterity should not suffer for it. In fact, there seems to be no reason why the precedent of the

Nawab of Tonk, whose son succeeded him in the Government of Tonk on his deposition, should not be followed in the Gaekwar's case.

In conclusion, the writer calls upon the princes of native states to take a warning from the Gaekwar's case, and refrain from the misdeeds which have brought on his downfall and disgrace.

The *Akhbar-i-Anjuman-i-Panjab* of the same date considers the deposition of the Gaekwar as the step in the right direction. The editor's view of the case corresponds with that taken by the Government. He thinks that the Maharaja deserved the punishment which has been inflicted on him, and that the interests of the people of Baroda required that a Prince whose rule was characterized by gross misgovernment and tyranny should be deposed. He then goes on to justify the general policy of the Government as well as the measures taken in this particular case.

The *Lauh-i-Mahfuz* of the same date, in a long article headed "Elegy on Justice," remarks that the prophecy made by some people at the outset of the Baroda agitation, that the Maharaja's fate was sealed, and that the appointment of a commission of inquiry was a hoax and a mere show to deceive the Hindustanis, has proved but too true. The Secretary of State has yielded to the opinion of the Government of India, and sanctioned the deposition of Maharaja Malhar Rao.

The editor goes on to take particular exception to that part of the proclamation of 19th April, which says :—"The Commissioners being divided in opinion, Her Majesty's Government have not based their decision on the inquiry or report of the commission : nor have they assumed that the result of the inquiry has been to prove the truth of the imputations against Malhar Rao." He is at a loss to understand why, if the result of the grand inquiry was to be *nil*, a Government in its sound senses adopted the tedious and expensive course of appointing the commission. Had it deposed the Gaekwar

at once, it would simply have incurred the blame of injustice, and of having passed an arbitrary decision like those of the Sikh Government, and would not have been charged with folly and imprudence besides. The writer thinks the lawful and proper course for Government would have been to abide by the opinions of the three Commissioners who have passed a verdict of Not proven.

The high-handed policy now pursued has had the effect of extinguishing the good will and fellow-feeling between the Government and the people of India, which Her Majesty's proclamation of 1857 had fostered. What the result of this will be has yet to be seen. It is true, prosperity and good fortune now befriend Government; but it is equally true that the course followed in dealing with Malhar Rao will be remembered when the days of adversity come.

The *Nur-ul-Absar* of the 1st May observes, that from the remark of the Secretary of State in the proclamation that Her Majesty's Government have not based their decision as to the deposition of the Gaekwar on the enquiry or report of the Commissioners, or on the assumption that the imputations against His Highness have been proved true, it cannot but be concluded that the report of the commission is not corroborative of the decision, and that the Commissioners, as a body, or even the majority of them, are not unanimous in bringing the charge home to the Maharaja; for were it so, the authorities in England would have certainly made this as one of the bases of their decision. Moreover, the writer has seen it stated in a recent issue of the *Pioneer*, that the three native members of the commission have passed a verdict of Not proven on the charge of attempted murder, and that their opinion is shared by the Chief Justice of the High Court, Calcutta, who was the president of the commission; and he thinks it strange that, notwithstanding all these substantial proofs to the contrary, the editor of that journal should pertinaciously go on asserting that the charge has been proved. His assertion is however unworthy of belief; and it is

extremely gratifying to find that Her Majesty's Government have not determined the charge to have been proved.

Other newspapers, and notably so the *Sadadarsha*, the *Panjabi Akhbar*, *Wakil-i-Hindustan*, *Koh-i-Nur*, *Saiyid-ul-Akhbar*, and *Murakka-i-Tazib* of the 1st, the *Kavi Vachan Sudha* of the 3rd, and the *Naf'-ul-Azim* of the 4th May, unanimously condemn the course adopted by Government. The whole case against the Gaekwar is said to have been fabricated by the police, and to have completely broken down on enquiry, and it is added that the Government is fully convinced of the innocence of the Gaekwar, which was established by the report of the commission.]

EDUCATIONAL.

The *Akhyar-ul-Akhbar* of the 27th April welcomes the proposal of the Saiyyids of Ghausna, a village in pargana Mahaban (Muttra), to establish a Muhammadan school for imparting education of a purely religious character in that village for the benefit of its inhabitants. Subscriptions amounting to Rs. 327 have already been raised under the auspices of the committee appointed for carrying out the project, which has the tahsildar of Mahaban for its Secretary.

The *Nur-ul-Absar* of the 1st May has an article on the *Selections* from the Vernacular Press, chiefly consisting of arguments against the recent decision that these *Selections* should be treated as confidential reports.

Other newspapers, such as the *Lauh-i-Mahfuz* and *Murakka-i-Tuhzib*, the *Panjabi Akhbar* of the 1st, and the *Oudh Akhbar* of the 5th May, making remarks on the same subject concur in the above opinion.

The following Vernacular newspapers have been examined in this report :—

(193)

No.	NAMES OF NEWSPAPER.	LANGUAGE.	LOCALITY.	WHEN PUBLISHED.	DATE.	DATE OF RECEIPT.
1	Nizam-ul-Asar,	Urdu,	Khairabad,	Tri-monthly, ...	1875.	1875.
2	Do.,	Ditto,	Ditto,	Ditto, ...	April, 1st	May, 4th
3	Rohilkhand Akhbar,	Ditto,	Moradabad,	Bi-weekly, ...	" 10th	" 4th
4	Kayasth Samachar,	Ditto,	Lucknow,	Bi-monthly, ...	" 10th	" 4th
5	Najm-ul-Akhbar,	Ditto,	Meerut,	Weekly, ...	" 23rd	" 5th
6	Vritt Dhara,	Marathi,	Dhar,	Ditto, ...	" 24th	" 4th
7	Marwar Gazette,	Urdu and Hindi,	Jodhpur,	Ditto, ...	" 26th	" 3rd
8	Nasim-i-Jaunpur,	Urdu,	Jaunpur,	Ditto, ...	" 26th	" 3rd
9	Rohilkhand Akhbar,	Ditto,	Moradabad,	Bi-weekly, ...	" 27th	" 3rd
10	Oudh Akhbar,	Ditto,	Lucknow,	Tri-weekly, ...	" 28th	" 4th
11	Muhibb-i-Hind,	Ditto,	Meerut,	Weekly, ...	" 4th week	" 3rd
12	Akhbar-i-Alam,	Ditto,	Ditto,	Ditto, ...	" 29th	" 3rd
13	Nur Afshan,	Ditto,	Ludhiana,	Ditto, ...	" 29th	" 3rd
14	Nasir-ul-Akhbar,	Ditto,	Dehli,	Tri-monthly, ...	" 29th	" 3rd
15	Nasir-ul-Islam,	Ditto,	Ditto,	Ditto, ...	" 29th	" 3rd
16	Benares Akhbar,	Hindi,	Benares,	Weekly, ...	" 29th	" 4th
17	Aligarh Institute Gazette,	Urdu and English,	Aligarh,	Ditto, ...	" 30th	" 3rd
18	Lauh-i-Mahfuz,	Urdu,	Moradabad,	Ditto, ...	" 30th	" 3rd
19	Rajputana Social Science Congress Gazette.	Ditto,	Jaipur,	Ditto, ...	" 30th	" 4th
20	Tafir-i-Hind,	Ditto,	Dehli,	Bi-monthly, ...	" 30th	" 4th
21	Agra Akhbar,	Ditto,	Agra,	Tri-monthly, ...	" 30th	" 4th
22	Akhbar-i-Anjuman-i-Panjab,	Ditto,	Lahore,	Weekly, ...	" 30th	" 4th
23	Meerut Gazette,	Ditto,	Meerut,	Ditto, ...	May, 1st	" 3rd

No.	NAMES OF NEWSPAPER.	LANGUAGE.	LOCALITY.	WHEN PUBLISHED.	DATE.	DATE OF RECEIPT.
34	<i>Vakil-i-Hindustan,</i>	Urdu,	Amritsar,	Weekly,	May,	1875. 3rd
35	<i>Atalik-i-Hind,</i>	Ditto,	Lahore,	Ditto,	"	4th
36	<i>Panjabi Akhbar,</i>	Ditto,	Ditto,	Ditto,	"	4th
37	<i>Koh-i-Nur,</i>	Ditto,	Ditto,	Ditto,	"	4th
38	<i>Urdu Akhbar,</i>	Ditto.	Dehli,	Ditto,	"	4th
39	<i>Samay Vinod,</i>	Urdu and Hindi,	Naini Tal,	Bi-monthly,	"	5th
40	<i>Ab-i-Hayat-i-Hind,</i>	Ditto,	Agra,	Ditto,	"	5th
41	<i>Mufid-i-Am,</i>	Urdu,	Ditto,	Ditto,	"	5th
42	<i>Ashraf-ul-Akhbar,</i>	Ditto,	Dehli,	Tri-monthly,	"	5th
43	<i>Jalwa-i-Tur,</i>	Ditto,	Meerut,	Weekly,	"	5th
44	<i>Akhbar-i-Anjuman-i-Hind,</i>	Ditto,	Lucknow,	Ditto,	"	5th
45	<i>Anwar-ul-Akhbar,</i>	Ditto,	Ditto,	Ditto,	"	5th
46	<i>Murakka-i-Tahzib,</i>	Ditto,	Ditto,	Bi-monthly,	"	6th
47	<i>Rohilkhand Akhbar,</i>	Ditto,	Moradabad,	Bi-weekly,	"	6th
48	<i>Khair Khwah-i-Panjab,</i>	Ditto,	Gujranwala,	Weekly,	"	6th
49	<i>Rifah-i-Am,</i>	Ditto,	Sialkote,	Ditto,	"	6th
50	<i>Mihr-i-Darakhshan,</i>	Ditto,	Dehli,	Ditto,	"	7th
51	<i>Saiyid-ul-Akhbar,</i>	Urdu and Hindi,	Ditto,	Tri-monthly,	"	7th
52	<i>Khurshid-i-Jahantab,</i>	Urdu,	Agra,	Bi-monthly,	"	7th
53	<i>Almora Akhbar,</i>	Urdu and Hindi,	Almora,	Ditto,	"	8th
54	<i>Oudh Akhbar,</i>	Urdu,	Lucknow,	Bi-weekly,	"	4th
55	<i>Akmal-ul-Akhbar,</i>	Ditto,	Dehli,	Weekly,	"	5th
56	<i>Gwalior Gazette,</i>	Urdu and Hindi,	Gwalior,	Ditto,	"	7th
57	<i>Sadadarsha,</i>	Anglo-Hindi,	Dehli,	Ditto,	"	4th
58	<i>Kavi Vachan Sudha,</i>	Ditto,	Benares,	Ditto,	"	6th
59	<i>Benares Gazette,</i>	Urdu,	Ditto,	Ditto,	"	6th

